

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1759, December 6, 1952

FILMS WITH A NEW LOOK IN NEW YORK

Wide-view movies on curved screen

IN London many visitors to the National Film Theatre on the South Bank have seen stereoscopic films which give the uncanny effect of coming out from the screen into the auditorium—if the onlooker wears a special pair of spectacles.

Now New Yorkers are flocking to a Broadway theatre to see another ingenious experiment in liberating the movie from the narrow confines of its frame.

This invention is called the Cinerama, and not only do the pictures give a remarkable illusion of reality and spaciousness, but the accompanying sound is "stereophonic."

The films are photographed with a triple camera, the lenses being directed right, left, and centre. In the theatre the three films are shown from separate projectors onto a concave screen 64 feet wide and 23 feet high—about six times the normal size. The three sections of the picture are so synchronised that they merge into one panoramic whole on the curved screen.

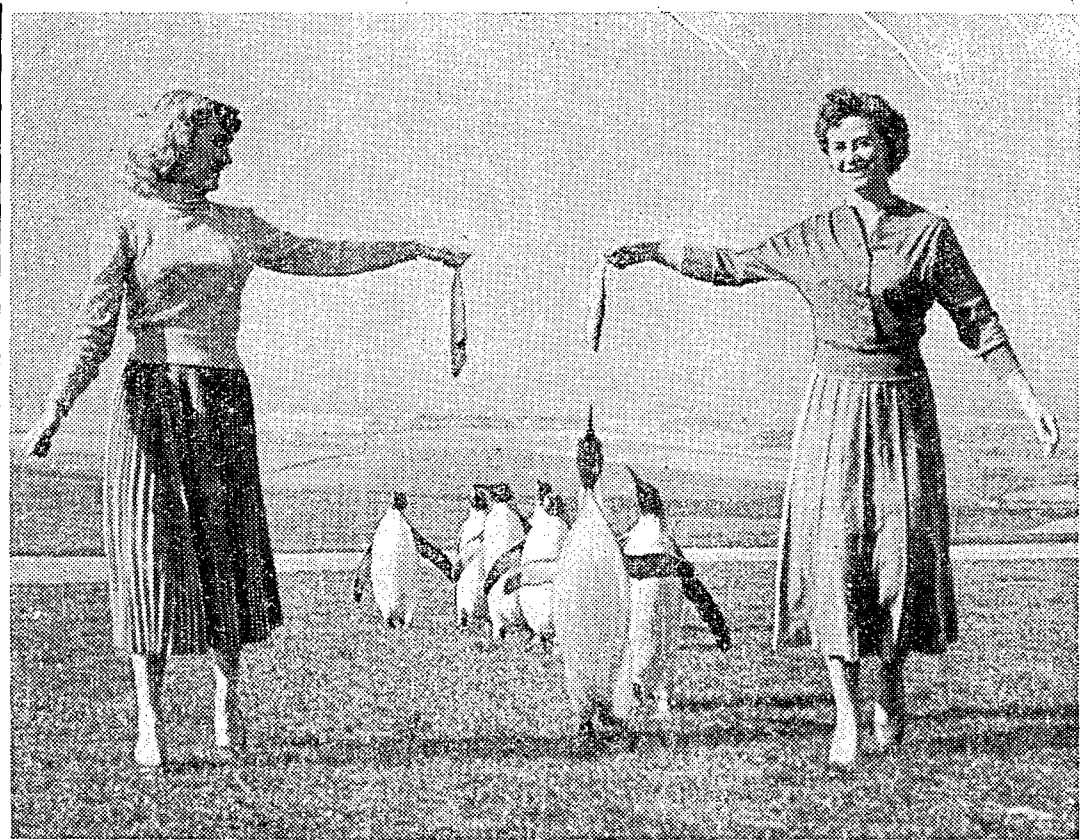
The sound is recorded from widely separated microphones so that in the theatre the sounds or voices can be heard coming from the appropriate part of the enormous screen. "Noises off" come

from loudspeakers in the auditorium and even behind the audience, with thrilling effect.

At present the Cinerama only shows travelogues and other "interest" subjects, such as a trip on a Venice canal in a gondola, opera scenes and orchestral performances, views of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, aeroplane flights, trips on speed boats, and so on.

The producers, however, are confident that full-dimensional pictures will be used in the future to give new scope and realism to the usual flat-screen features of drama and comedy, especially when the films are made in colour.

It seems doubtful, however, whether it will be practicable to equip ordinary small-town cinemas with huge curved screens and three projection booths.



Fish queue

With a little encouragement from two visitors, some King Penguins at Whipsnade formed an orderly line to "come and get it." They had not far to waddle before they were rewarded with fish.

MACHINE THAT ALWAYS WINS AT CHESS

Professor F. C. Williams of Manchester University told an audience at Leeds University recently, that it is wrong to call the computing machine at his university a "mechanical brain"; it has no brain and is electronic, not mechanical.

This wonderful machine, which cost £100,000, has been in use for 18 months. Not only can it solve the most intricate problems in nuclear physics, but it can also play draughts and chess with the certainty of beating its opponent!

But it has its drawbacks; it takes 30 mathematicians and three engineers to keep it going, and it can make an occasional error.

GHOST TOWN OF OLD GOLD RUSH DAYS

A business firm has been hunting for a ghost town in British Columbia.

Officials of the newly-formed Ghost Town and Frontier Village, Limited, plan to select a deserted town of British Columbia's gold rush days, and to restore it as a tourist centre. As far as possible they propose to operate all business in the town as in the old frontier days.

SOUTH SEA QUEEN'S SHOPPING EXPEDITION

A Queen is in New Zealand—shopping. She is Queen Salote of the Tonga Protectorate in the Pacific, and she is now in the Dominion tackling the problem of buying Western style clothes to wear at the Coronation next year. It is a problem in outsizes, for she is six foot three.

Queen Salote, who will come to Britain next spring as the guest of the British Government, comes from a dynasty founded nearly 900 years ago. A gracious, dignified lady, she was educated in New Zealand, came to the throne in 1918,

and is much loved by her subjects. She is passionately fond of music, and speaks English well.

Her South Sea kingdom consists of about 150 islands east of Fiji. They have a land area of some 270 square miles, and a population of 45,000 who are all Christians. Their main industry is copra. Last year they celebrated the jubilee of their association with Great Britain.

Tonga was given the name of the Friendly Islands by Captain Cook because of the kindly welcome he received from the people in 1773.

CAN YOU SAY IT OR PLAY IT?

Hearing that a recital on the hydrodaktulpsychicharmonica was to be given by a Salvation Army song leader, a CN correspondent investigated it and found that this somewhat frightening name had been given to a set of 28 musical glasses. When played by a skilled performer, the glass harmonica sounds musical and sweet.

The device is old, though perhaps not as ancient as the four Greek words in the name would suggest.

BRITAIN'S YOUNGEST TOWN-CRIER

The village of Tarbolton, Ayrshire, probably has the youngest town-crier in Britain.

Ring his bell with one hand, schoolboy James Kerr walks the streets of his village to proclaim bazaars, meetings, and other events, just as his predecessors did when Robert Burns lived in Tarbolton.

CHURCH BUILT FOR 23s. 6d.

A church has been built for 23s. 6d. in the African Copper Belt. Bricks were baked from the clay on the spot, and women and children carried them on their heads to the building site. Ant hills mixed with sand made excellent cement. Poles and roof-thatching were cut from the surrounding bush country.

At the opening ceremony 200 African miners marched in procession with a ten-foot wooden cross at their head. It is the first church in the Copper Belt built by voluntary labour.

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HALF AN HOUR IS THEIR SCHOOL DAY

So successful has been the 30-minutes-a-morning school at Alice Springs, South Australia, that the schoolmaster is urging its extension for a full day. It is a radio school for children who live in outback regions of Northern Australia, far removed from ordinary classrooms; and from Alice Springs, for 30 minutes every morning, lessons are broadcast to

them, each pupil having a microphone to keep in touch with the schoolmaster, Mr. C. H. Coats.

This School of the Air, as it is called, was originally designed to supplement correspondence courses, but it has already become a part of outback life, adults "attending" as well as youngsters.

The class starts at 10.30 a.m. with a roll call. Text books needed for the half-hour lesson are given out and the pupils settle down to work. There can be no time-wasting in this school, for on the stroke of eleven another programme begins.

At ten minutes to eleven Mr. Coats asks: "Are you ready with your questions?" and then, instead of hands shooting up, microphones are lifted and the pupils wait their turn. Questions and answers flow to and fro across the great deserted regions of Northern Australia, each ending with a crisp "over to you."

Every other Friday the pupils have a full half-hour for questions, a session appropriately called "Trouble Corner." As there are no examinations, tests and quizzes are held every fortnight, the children competing with each other as keenly as those in an ordinary school building.

Mr. Coats hopes to extend the School of the Air to normal daily hours, and eventually to establish a similar system of radio education for outback areas of New South Wales and Queensland.

Royal Scout



Prince Wolfgang of Liechtenstein, 17, is here seen sawing up a tree at Gilwell Park, Essex, where he is studying British Scouting.

FRESH START FOR GREECE

Distinguished soldier as Prime Minister

By the CN Diplomatic Correspondent

ENTHUSIASTIC cheers sped the arrival of cars at the Royal Palace of Athens the other day; the Greek people were greeting members of their new Government, about to be sworn in before King Paul.

The Ministers may well have been surprised at the dramatic result of the election, with the overwhelming victory for the first time of the political party known as the Greek Rally, led by Field-Marshal Alexandros Papagos.

The General Election which wrought the change was conducted on a majority system like our own instead of the former proportional representation system. That complex system had lasted for 20 years, and had favoured a multiplication of parties and weakness of decision. Popular wishes led to a three-cornered contest in which the right Greek Rally won four-fifths of the 300 seats, the centre coalition the other seats, and the left party none at all. The Communists had been banned as a party, but were allowed to vote.

BLOW FOR COMMUNISTS

So, whatever else it may mean, the election does show that the Greek people have given a strong decision against Communism, which has been the chief cause of disturbance and misery in the country for some years. The Communists had kept Greece in a state of ferment. Even when they were outlawed their underground organisation, directed from beyond the frontiers, continued the work of political sabotage.

What sort of Prime Minister is Field-Marshal Papagos likely to be?

He will be 70 next birthday, and as might be expected of a distinguished soldier, he is forthright and decisive in manner. As the only Field-Marshal in the Greek army, he appears in uniform on formal occasions. But he regards himself as a civilian.

In his small villa in the countryside a few miles from Athens he leads a simple life with his wife and son, and his chief recreation is exercising the family Alsatian.

M. Papagos is no stranger to

London, and has twice visited this country.

M. Papagos certainly believes that a government can only function successfully if it is strong and independent. Time and again he has refused offers of collaboration from other political parties, and he will have nothing to do with coalitions. (There have been 26 coalition Governments in the past six years.)

Suggestions that his inclinations are dictatorial are not borne out by his rejections of invitations to take control of his country at times when these weak coalitions have failed to make progress. M. Papagos said each time that he would only take the post of Prime Minister if properly elected to do so as the leader of his Party.

This has happened at last, and when the Greek Parliament meet on December 15, the new Prime Minister—who has appointed the most patriotic of former Ministers to high office—will outline his policy. It will be debated and Parliament will be asked to pass a vote of confidence. There is little doubt that the Government will be fully endorsed, and their first task will be to make the economic situation really stable.

STRENGTHENING THE LINK

Western Europe will await the results with a considerable amount of interest. Hitherto, the political uncertainties in Greece have greatly weakened her as a link in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation for the maintenance of peace. This changed situation with unity under a democratic Government in Greece should help the cause of peace.

Many of the problems of the country, the chief of which is extreme poverty, will take years to overcome. The next few months should show if the Papagos Government has the capacity to inaugurate a new era for Greece.

GIFT OF FINE CLOTH

The Committee of Aldermen of the Corporation of London are meeting this month to select lengths of finely-woven livery cloth for sending to 17 high officials of the State and the City. They will thus revive an annual custom which had to be suspended during the war because of clothes rationing.

This gift of the City Corporation can be traced back several hundred years. It is a reminder of times when the retainers of the great lords of the realm were allowed to wear livery, but became so numerous as to be a danger to both king and country.

Between 1377 and 1504, 17 laws were passed regulating and restricting the use of livery, exceptions being granted in favour of "guilds and fraternities, and men of the mysteries of cities and boroughs."

It was these regulations which led to this old City custom.

700 YEARS OF M.P.s

Fifteen research workers in London University are hard at work on a huge encyclopedia containing biographies of every Member of Parliament for the last 700 years.

It was started long before the war but will take another 20 years to complete. Hundreds of thousands of documents, posters, and addresses, as well as the family history of every M.P., are being examined for interesting details to include in this great work, which will comprise 23 big volumes.

AT THE CIRCUS

A special performance of the Bertram Mills Circus is to be given for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at London's Olympia on December 18; and the circus band will have a special conductor for the occasion—Sir Adrian Boult.



THIS column had often wondered what to call the "hole" in the roof of historic Westminster Hall, richer in State events than probably any other building in the world.

Occasionally called a "lantern" or a "vent," its official name is fleche (pronounced flesh). But one thing is certain: this "Hall of Kings," where our late king and his father and grandfather before him lay in state, was originally the banqueting hall of the Palace of Westminster, where our Parliament now sits.

Imagine, then, the Norman and Plantagenet monarchs at their State banquets there, with a great fire blazing in the middle of the flagged floor—and the smoke, or most of it, going up through the "hole in the roof."

Today it is in the news because a minor leak has been discovered in it and workmen have been busy repairing it.

WHAT is a Parliamentary Secretary? A junior Minister (not a member of the Cabinet) who assists his Minister in the administration of his department. He gets a salary of £1500 a year—£500 more than his salary as an M.P.

What, then, is a Parliamentary Private Secretary? An M.P. who assists a Minister but is not in the Government. He occupies the bench behind the Treasury bench so that he is quickly available for consultation. He can make speeches in the House on any subject other than that which concerns his Ministry. For this work he is unpaid, except, of course, for his M.P.'s salary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member is in order in part of his argument, but he should not take it to the world level.

Mr. Hale (West Oldham): I am a modest man, and I will be satisfied with a single continent—Africa.

MR. BUTLER, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has given a useful definition of the purpose of economics. It is not, he says, and may never be, an exact science. But it does at least provide a background against which a judgment can be made of the situation as a whole and of what may be required.

TRUE words were also spoken by other day by Mr. Crookshank, Leader of the House of Commons. "I think that one of the most likeable things about the House," he said, "is that it has a very short memory for a bad speech, but a long memory for a good one."

SAVING: The Victorians reckoned that a man should save one-tenth of his income.—Lord Hawke.

PRODDING: I admit that I have been prodding the farming industry with a metaphorical pitchfork for two-and-a-half years.—Mr. Stanley Evans, M.P.

News from Everywhere

BLACK MARK

Deciding to be his own sweep, a man at Barnoldswick, Yorkshire, climbed to his roof and dropped two bricks tied to a rope down the chimney. They landed on a neighbour's hearth amid a cascade of soot!

In over 30 years bus conductor Alfred Playfoot, of Guildford, has punched four million tickets and travelled 1,050,000 miles.

Potter and painter



Mrs. Rachel Warner of Monkton Combe, Somerset, makes Corona mugs in a converted barn.

A special pets' corner and children's playground is planned for a site at the Crystal Palace.

A plastic, infection-proof dressing that can be sprayed on a wound is being tested by U.S. doctors.

Lectures and demonstrations are being given in Blackpool to show landlords how to improve the meals they provide.

VICTORY TO THE BEES

Firemen called to deal with a swarm of bees in Mombasa, Kenya, turned their hoses on them. When the bees launched a counter attack, the firemen set light to some grass-land and stood in the smoke.

An unpublished collection of 336 recipes for cooking edible fungi has won a prize of 100,000 francs for its French compiler, Dr. Paul Ramin of Douvaine.

The Women's Volunteer Service has offered to help American Servicemen to trace their ancestry in this country.

A ship was launched in thick fog at Pennsylvania recently—by radar.

About half of the blind people in Britain are doing the same jobs as people who can see.

British soldiers in Korea have started a Rover Scout group.

Television pictures have been successfully relayed from a submerged submarine to the Portsmouth shore 16 miles away.

YOUNG SAVERS

More than two million children now belong to school savings groups in Britain.

A Lincoln firm has developed a gas turbine which burns peat instead of coal.

A water-colour drawn a year ago by 16-year-old Leslie Goodwin of Chelsea, has been adopted by the Seafarers' Education Service for an official Christmas card.

a Blackbird for Christmas

This lovely pen makes writing easy.
Its new streamline case, automatic screw filling and 14 ct. gold nib make it the modern pen that your friends will envy—just watch their faces when you show it to them.
Ask for a Blackbird this Christmas and be sure of a pen you'll be proud to own.

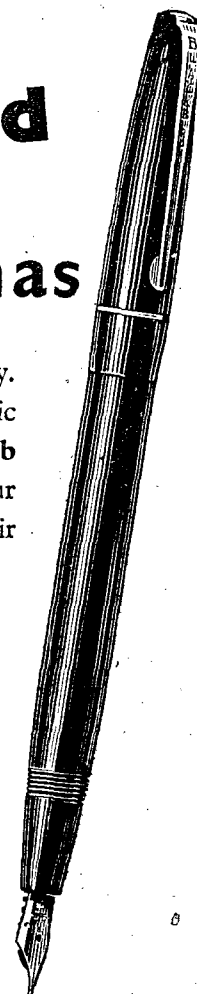
Cases in a variety of lovely colours

PRICE (INC. TAX)

14'8

Blackbird

THE PEN FOR BETTER WRITING



The Children's Newspaper, December 6, 1952

SIX LUCKY STAMP COLLECTORS

Somewhere in Bournemouth are six lucky stamp collectors.

A little while ago they each bought a 2½d. unused blue stamp of Grenada for only 4d., and it has since been found that the stamps are extremely valuable.

The stamp dealer who sold them says: "It's a thing that happens once in a blue moon."

He received 30 of the stamps direct from Grenada and made them up into sets which were sold. Later he discovered that they were wrongly perforated and that only a few copies are known to exist.

He has managed to trace 24 of his original 30 and has bought some back, but six are still missing.

The reason for their rarity is the change-over from sterling to dollars in Grenada. Only a few copies of the 2½d. stamp with this particular perforation were printed before the value was changed to cents.

RIPON'S CAXTON

Two years ago a book believed to have been printed by Caxton in 1480 was found in the library of Ripon Cathedral. It is now known that the Vatican library has the manuscript of this book (The Epitome of the Pearl of Eloquence) and it is thought that it may be the actual one used by Caxton.

The Epitome, a short version of a work on rhetoric of the 15th century, was written by Lorenzo of Savona, a Franciscan friar who visited London and Cambridge. The copy in Ripon Cathedral library, recently rebound by the British Museum, is the only one known.

GREETINGS CARD BY MR CHURCHILL

A reproduction of a painting of Cannes Harbour by Mr. Winston Churchill was used by him last Christmas for his personal greeting cards. This year similar cards with reprints of the same painting will be available to the public at 1s. 6d.

The cards are already in great demand and orders have come from countries as far away as Finland, South Africa, Pakistan, and Australia.

HERO OF FREEDOM HONoured

A new school in New York has a statue of the printer who won the first important victory for the freedom of the Press in America.

In the days when New York was still under British rule, German-born John Zenger established the first independent newspaper there, the New York Weekly Journal; and in 1734 he was arrested for criticising the government of the province.

Zenger was kept in prison for ten months before being brought to trial, but the jury found him not guilty, and his acquittal was greeted by triumphant cheers from the crowd in the streets of the little city. He had vindicated the right of the people to criticise their rulers.

MORE FOOD IN INDIA'S LARDER

For centuries past the people of Uttar Pradesh Province (formerly Agra and Oudh), India, have suffered from food shortages, despite a surplus of fruit at various seasons. To remedy this the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (F.A.O.) has sent Mr. Carbasius Weber of the Netherlands to advise on food preservation, and has provided suitable chemicals and equipment.

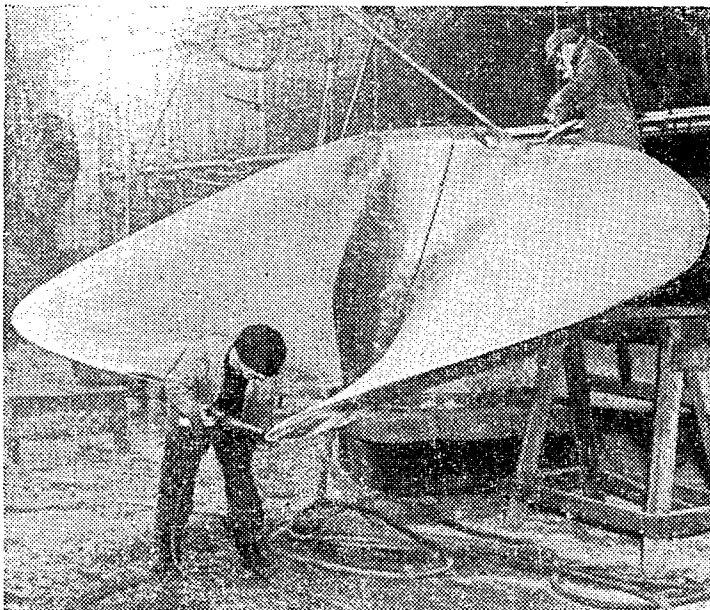
Mr. Weber will help the 60 million people of the province to preserve their surplus apples, peaches, plums, mangoes, guavas, cabbages, potatoes, and other crops for use in times of shortage.

STRANGER ON THE FARM

An Oxfordshire farmer was surprised the other day to find a strange bird with a colourful beak among his ducks; it was a puffin, a sea-bird that seldom ventures farther inland than the cliffs where it breeds.

This puffin had been blown in from the coast by gales, had alighted on a hill and, presumably, had sought the company of ducks as being likely to understand the ways of other web-footed birds.

The farmer caught it and fed it with herrings and other suitable fare before handing it over to the R.S.P.C.A.



Overall overhaul

Scaling one of the Queen Mary's four 32-ton propellers during the liner's complete overhaul in dry dock at Southampton. About 300 tons of limpets and barnacles were scraped from the hull.

AUSTRALIAN TREES FOR PALESTINE

Central Australian desert oaks are to be planted in some areas in Palestine to combat soil erosion and provide shade.

The trees have been grown and cultivated in Australia's centre by Mr. Ted Ryko, a water pumper at the lonely Bundooma railway siding on the line from Adelaide to Alice Springs.

For years his hobby has been the growing of desert trees and making experiments with shrubs as wind-breakers.

ARE YOU THERE, PLEASE?

A thousand business men of St. Pancras, London, have got together and drawn up ten rules for good telephone manners. These have been printed on gold-coloured paper and given to local employment exchanges for distribution to people seeking jobs.

Answer speedily, pleasantly, and clearly, and write down any messages you are given—these are among the all-important rules.

WATER MILL FOR MUSEUM

Raindale water mill, which for centuries ground the corn brought down to the valley by the moorland farmers round Levisham, in the North Riding, has been saved from deterioration and presented to York. It will be re-erected in the grounds of the famous Castle Museum, and visitors will be able to examine the wheel and machinery formerly driven by a stream connecting with a trough 18 inches deep and 18 inches wide.

BELL 2000 YEARS OLD

A little tinkling bell which is thought to have been attached to the neck of a dog about 2000 years ago, is being shown in an exhibition of discoveries by Oxford University archaeologists at the Ashmolean Museum. It was unearthed at Callow Hill, Worcestershire.

ALL ABOUT THE COLONIES

A wealth of out-of-the-way information can be gleaned from the new edition of Introducing the Colonies (Stationery Office, 2s.).

This brightly-illustrated book tells us that Nigeria is the largest colony, with 372,674 square miles; and that Gibraltar, 2½ square miles, is the smallest—and, with 11,000 people to the square mile also the most densely populated.

Victoria, capital of Hong Kong, with its population of a million, is the Colonial Empire's biggest city. The Niger, which is 2600 miles long, is the longest river. Beautiful Kilimanjaro in Tanganyika is the highest mountain (19,565 feet or, according to a recent survey, 19,340 feet).

To Aden goes the distinction of being the Empire's driest spot (maximum annual rainfall only eight inches). At the other extreme, Debunya Point in the Cameroons has an annual rainfall of 390 inches!

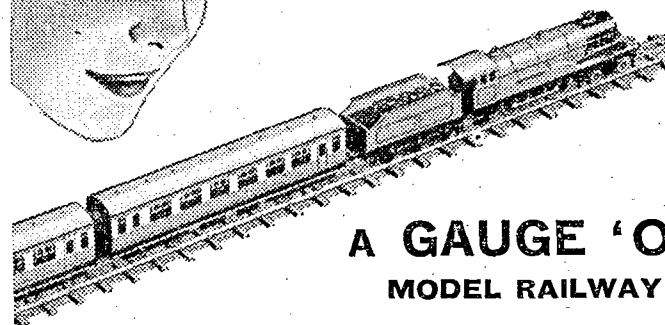
CAR FOR RAINY DAYS

A new Austin military vehicle, called the Champ, can be driven with the engine completely submerged; its efficiency was demonstrated at Aldershot when it was driven through a tank six feet deep.

The Champ carries a fixed snorkel through which the engine "breathes"—but the driver has to depend on the old-fashioned method of keeping his head out of the water! A frogman could, of course, drive one on the seabed.



The PASTIME of a LIFETIME

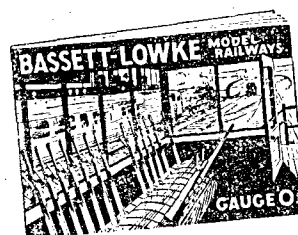


A GAUGE 'O' MODEL RAILWAY

WHEN YOU OWN a real "live" Bassett-Lowke Model Railway, the thrill of being Station Master, Engine Driver or Signalman is yours; trains speed over the metals to obey signals and glide over points at your command.

START NOW! A small layout of track, one engine and its attendant coaches, bought now at a moderate cost, grows in time by the addition of many fascinating "extras" into a complicated and enthralling miniature railway system that never loses its fascination.

Here, then, is the thrill of reality in miniature—and the most intriguing pastime of your lifetime. Many of the foremost engineers in the country started in this way.



It is not possible to describe more of our models in this advertisement. But there is much more to be seen and read about in our fully illustrated Gauge 'O' Catalogue. Price 1/- Please write now to Dept. GO/121 BASSETT-LOWKE LTD., NORTHAMPTON.

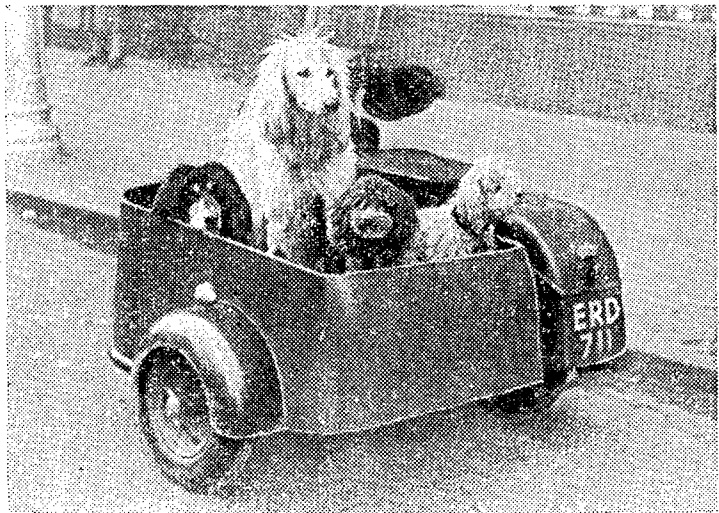
BASSETT-LOWKE LTD.

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NORTHAMPTON

LONDON: 112 High Holborn, W.C.1.

MANCHESTER: 28 Corporation Street.



Lucky dogs!

These four assorted dogs travel in comfort when their mistress goes shopping in Reading. They have been well trained, and wait patiently in the sidecar for her to come out of a shop.

DO YOU PLAY BAGGATAWAY?

A British schoolgirl might well be puzzled if asked whether she played baggataway, but that was the original name for lacrosse, which was introduced to Europeans by Canadian Indians.

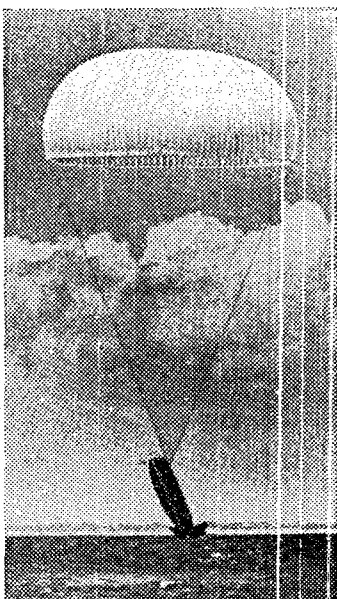
We learn this from an account of Canada's national game appearing in the latest number of New Empire, the Empire Day Movement's quarterly journal. It was written by an Ontario schoolgirl, Ruth Dawson.

The first white settlers saw Indians playing baggataway with goals as much as half a mile apart. As many as a thousand Red Indians were taking part, and as the game was training for war rather than recreation, play was extremely rough, and the players wore their war paint and feathers.

There were rules, however, and they were enforced by old medicine men acting as umpires—and sometimes as goalposts!

Shorn of its rough and, indeed, often brutal character, baggataway was adopted by the French Canadians in 1740. They called it lacrosse because they thought the peculiarly-shaped stick resembled a bishop's crozier. English-speaking Canadians took up lacrosse in 1847, and in 1867 it became Canada's national game.

Lacrosse came into favour in Britain about 1883, Cambridge University and the Leys School being the first educational establishments to play it.



Airborne lifeboat

An all-metal thirty-foot lifeboat being dropped by parachute. The parachute is automatically jettisoned and the pilot of the aircraft then steers the boat by radio-control towards the place where help is needed.

Flying zoo

BRITISH OVERSEAS AIRWAYS CORPORATION say that a fifth of their passengers are animals. In 12 months their Far East service alone carried 62,000 birds, 51,000 fishes, 16,000 monkeys, 186 snakes, 36 bears, 32 panthers, as well as leopards, donkeys, horses, and tigers.

In the Air

By the C N Flying Correspondent

Bigger and bigger

THE proposed size of British passenger helicopters is increasing. Mr. Peter Masefield, B.E.A. chief executive, says that what the Corporation really wants is a 48 to 64-seat helicopter capable of cruising at 160 m.p.h. and weighing 48,000 lbs.

Diesel jet

THE Royal Navy's super-priority anti-submarine aircraft, the Fairey Gannet, recently flew on ship's diesel fuel.

The fuel is 47 cetane used by the Navy to drive all diesel-powered generating plant and various auxiliary engines in their carriers. No modifications are necessary to the Double Mamba propjet engine.

The ability of the Gannet to fly on this fuel will greatly simplify things for the Navy, and possibly halve the number of pumps, tanks, and pipes on certain carriers.

More jet liners

MR. GEORGE EDWARDS, designer of the Viscount turboprop airliner and the Valiant jet bomber, revealed recently that Vickers are tooling-up for an output of 100 Viscounets a year. Mr. Edwards recently announced that the number of Viscounets on order was 75. This figure includes the recent £4,100,000 order from Trans-Canada Air Lines, which has asked for 15 Viscounets.

A third Comet production line, in addition to those at Hatfield and Belfast, is being set up at Broughton, near Chester.

It is learned, also, that Bristols intend to expand the output of the big Britannias. Sir Miles Thomas is also negotiating with Bristols for freighter versions of the Britannia.

Big Fairey

FAIREY AVIATION are working on a new approach to the problem of applying "jettery" to a helicopter.

The latest version of their Rotodyne has two fuselage-mounted turbines which supply compressed air to baby jets at the tips of the five-bladed rotors and also to two ordinary turboprop units on the wings. In forward flight the wing-engines consume most of the compressed air and in vertical flight most is conducted to the rotors.

The airliner version of the Rotodyne will seat 40 passengers, and a freighter model will carry three cars and their passengers.

Heart-booms

Swiss scientists have designed an ingenious electronic device for measuring the heartbeats of pilots as they "go supersonic."

It takes the form of two small microphones attached to the pilot's chest, which are used in conjunction with the plane's transmitter. The heartbeats are "boomed" over a range of up to 100 miles and received on an automatic recording machine at a ground station.

At the Zoo, says CRAVEN HILL, they will be . . .

DIGGING UP STOLEN PROPERTY

ONE of the London Zoo's most familiar features, the prairie marmots' hillock, is to be remodelled during the winter and made ready for other animals—which kind has not yet been decided.

This enclosure, specially laid out for North American "prairie dogs" in the early 1920s, has been inhabited by successive colonies of these animals. They have honey-combed the hillock with burrows, in which they used to hibernate.

No doubt the renovation of the place will bring some surprises for the workmen engaged on the task, for marmots are keen collectors. Many a trifle, from fountain-pens to buttons and coins, has been stolen from visitors and carried down the burrows. Much of this booty should come to light during the excavations.

OTHER work planned for the coming months is the demolition of the wolves' dens, the tenants having been moved to other parts of the Gardens.

"We are breaking away from tradition in this matter," Mr. G. S. Cansdale, the superintendent, tells me. "There will in future be no house, with small dens, for the wolves and allied species. What we are planning is to have two enclosures on the north bank of the Regent's Canal, one for wolves, the other for foxes.

"On the opposite bank there will be two other enclosures, one for hyenas and one for jackals. The animals will accordingly live in open, but well-wired paddocks, with trees growing in them. For cover, the animals will have caves in the banks which will be specially excavated for them."

THE autumn gales have blown a rare sea-bird to Regent's Park. It is a Leach's fork-tailed petrel, a species seen normally only in the

Iceland and Greenland areas, and occasionally in the North Atlantic.

The bird was picked up on the grass near Avenue Road by Keeper Humphrys of the Zoo's Eastern Aviary, who chanced to be passing the spot. Unfortunately, the petrel died before it reached the Zoo sanatorium.

Dr. Osman Hill, the Society's "coroner," examined the remains and found evidence of an internal sickness, though it is doubtful if this caused the petrel's death.

"Sheer exhaustion may have been equally responsible," a Zoo official observed to me. "The petrel must have been flying a long time to have got so far south. Its death is unfortunate, but even had it lived we should not have been able to keep it. Petrels do not thrive at all well in captivity."

In the Gardens themselves, however, Prince, the three-months-old home-bred King penguin, continues to do remarkably well, and now weighs some 30 lbs., compared with a birth-weight of only a few ounces!

Since Prince lost his father, Tubby, he has been given special nursing by Headkeeper Hubert Jones, who hand-feeds the young King on mashed herring several times daily. A few drops of a vitamin compound, to prevent rickets, are added to each of Prince's meals.

And in the ravens' aviary a new comedian has appeared, a talking raven whose phrases are giving visitors some good laughs. In addition to the usual tags such as "Hello," and "Come on," this bird has a third oration which it keeps until the keeper is sweeping out the cage.

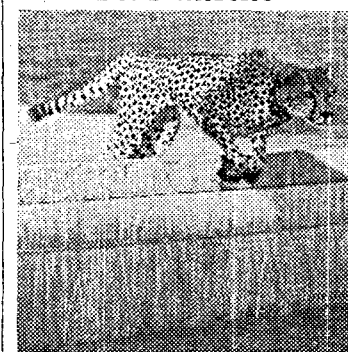
The raven then sits on a perch and, surveying the man with a cold eye, repeats over and over again, with an air of urgency not unmixed with testiness: "Get ON with it!"

NINE MILES OF ROPE

A nine-mile-long aerial ropeway, strung with great tubs to carry coal from the Tilmanstone Colliery to Dover Harbour, is likely to be dismantled soon and sent to India.

The ropeway was made in 1927 at a cost of some £130,000, but it has been idle since 1939.

Pet's exercise



This 14-month-old cheetah was captured in Somaliland by an Italian captain; it is quite tame and walks about the streets of Rome on a lead.

FLAGS OF ALL NATIONS

Nearly 400 different flags and ensigns, together with the international code of signals, are reproduced in colour in a new chart, Flags of All Nations, published at 6s. by Brown, Son and Ferguson, Glasgow.

Among the most attractive British flags are the standards of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the Duke of Edinburgh. The Queen Mother's is a Royal Standard extended to include blue lions of Scotland and other devices on a white background; and the Duke's standard bears as part of its design the white cross of Greece.

Among the new foreign flags shown are those of Israel, a blue Star of David on a white background with blue bars; the black, red, and yellow flag of post-war Germany; and the flags of new States: Burma, Vietnam (French Indo-China), Korea, Libya, Indonesia, the Philippines.

Flags of All Nations should find a place in every school library.

Christmas Outlook



COLD and dark tonight? Who cares! Christmas is coming and there's magic in the air! Picture yourself a child again. Remember those thousand tiny thrills of anticipation you used to feel as each night brought the great day nearer! Will you help us to ensure that, for our great family of all ages (from under one to over ninety), this year's Christmas will live up to expectations? Do please send a gift to General Albert Orsborn, 101, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

The Salvation Army

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The Children's Newspaper, December 6, 1952

GATEWAYS TO SUCCESS—5

Berkshire Institute of Agriculture

THERE is no industry more important than farming, but never before have boys and girls leaving school had such good opportunities of getting the proper training for a life on the land.

There are three kinds of courses offered: three-year degree courses at universities, especially for those who want teaching posts in agriculture; two-year diploma courses at agricultural colleges; and one-year courses at county agricultural institutes.

A year or so ago one of these institutes of agriculture was set up by the Education Committee of the County of Berkshire to provide a 12-month course for sons and daughters of farmers or farm-workers, or for young people with a desire to work on the land.

The place chosen was an early 18th-century mansion called Hall Place, standing a mile or two south of the Thames Valley between Maidenhead and Henley, on an estate of nearly 500 acres, including extensive farm buildings.

BEFORE embarking on the course it is necessary to have at least some experience and trial of farm work. Many young people get bitten with the idea, perhaps after staying on a farm in the summer; but when they find what pasture or plough land looks like at seven o'clock on a wet winter morning they change their minds. So no one is admitted to Hall Place, or any of the other county institutes or colleges, without having had one year's experience on the land.

The County Education Authorities, and also the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, offer scholarships and awards. Berk-

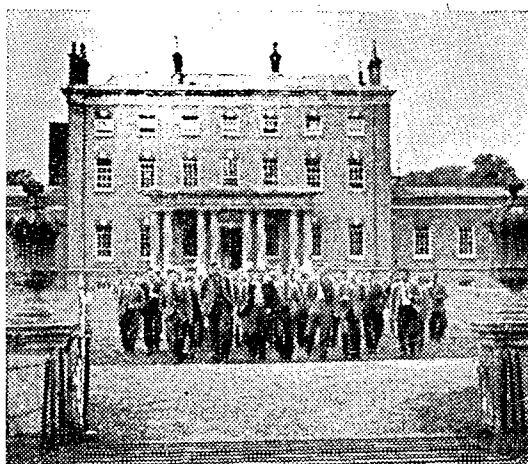
shire, for instance, offers financial help every year to children of residents in the county who want to learn agriculture, dairying, horticulture, or poultry management. Applicants must be not less than seventeen at the beginning of the course.

No examination is necessary, but a good standard of general education is asked for. After all, farming is like everything else nowadays and tends to use more and still more science, and more machines. It is also important to be able to get figures right, and to understand the costing and marketing side of things.

HALL PLACE is a dignified brick house with a front big enough for three rows of tall windows and with a noble pillared porch. Dining hall, lecture rooms, and dormitories for the men students take up this main part, the girls being accommodated in a wing to the right. Another wing to the left is used for staff rooms, sick quarters, and so on.

An agricultural institute is not meant to be luxurious, but anyone who uses his eyes must be impressed by the remaining splendours of what once was a gracious home—panelled rooms, magnificent mantelpieces, and paintings of ancestors still on the walls. It reminded me of the setting for a scene out of Jane Austen or Anthony Trollope.

One of the staff pointed out to me that students have to be clearly told that what is happening to them here is the laying of a sound, practical, scientific attitude to their work. They are not being turned into fully-fledged farmers or



Farmers of the future set out from Hall Place

farm managers in one short year. It takes a little longer than that.

Many of the lads and lassies at Hall Place, in fact, go back to work at the same humble job they came from—with the difference that if they have used their time well they have something really solid to build upon and their boss will appreciate it. After all, each county institute is a local affair and farmers from the surrounding country know all about it.

Broadly speaking, a student at Hall Place starts off his day with theory (lectures) and then goes out to the fields or the farm buildings to put theory into practice. There are demonstrations by instructors followed by students' work under supervision—how to plough a straight furrow with a tractor and the running repairs likely to be needed, or working with the milking machine, or caring for sick animals.

I had a look at what they call

their Thursday Forum programme for one term. This was a series of evening lectures or film shows on such subjects as 'The National Farmers' Union and the Farmer' and 'The History of Farm Mechanisation'. Then there were organised visits to the Dairy Show, the Smithfield Cattle Show, and so on.

THE day starts at 6.0 o'clock when a team, taken in turn on the rota system, starts the routine work. Breakfast and tidying up dormitories (girls have cubicles) last from 8.0 till 9.0, and then there are three hours of lectures.

I sat in at one of these. It was held in what may have been the drawing room of the old house. The walls are decorated in yellow and white marble, and there is a magnificent fireplace and overmantel guarded on either side by pairs of dolphins with long tails twisted round each other. A room fit for dukes and duchesses!

But the rows of students with their notebooks were concentrated on the lecturer, who was stressing the importance of keeping a farm diary of each day's happenings here so that when in after years something goes wrong, the ex-student could refer to a similar happening encountered at college. ("Wasn't it something like this that happened to old Buttercup who used to be such a pal of mine?")

Then we went on to the study of milk, and were assured that it is *not* turned sour by thunder but by millions of bacteria, so small that 30,000 of them could sit comfortably on a pin's head. Then we learned what these minute creatures get up to in a bottle of milk.

After lunch, at noon, students are out on the farm till five; then they come in, via the changing room, remove muddy boots and working clothes, have a farmer's tea, and do an hour's private study. An organised discussion follows, or perhaps a film; then supper at nine and bed at ten.

THERE are dairy and beef herds—Jerseys, Friesians, and Short-horns—and a flock of Border-Leicester sheep. After lunch I went along with one of the instructors to watch the flock being collected to have their feet cleaned. This meant trimming hoofs, giving each animal an anti-worm dose,

and then driving it through a bath of copper sulphate to kill the organisms which produce foot-rot.

We got the sheep rounded up all right (or rather the dog did) and then, in a hurdled enclosure, the fun began! Students had each to catch a sheep, turn it on its rump, and start the manicure. Some of them were already practised hands. Others—well, have you ever tried to catch a large and heavy sheep and turn it on its rump?

I was reminded of a number of young men trying to dance with very fat partners in grimy fur coats. And when it came to driving the animals one at a time



Learning the correct way to dig a ditch

through the copper sulphate I was anxious to see which fell in the trough first, sheep or student; there were several very exciting contests.

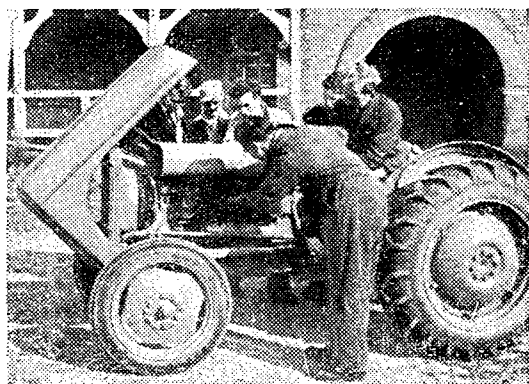
Afterwards I watched the dairy instructress while she perched on a bale of hay in one of the cow-sheds and demonstrated with a blackboard the weaning of calves from liquid to solid foods. While this was going on I noticed one of the smaller calves, which had managed to get its head through the bars of its pen, quietly stealing tasty bits of cattle cake from the bin under the bale of hay. After this we went on to hand and machine milking and some rick-thatching.

It was certainly hard work these young people were doing, but just as certainly they were all enjoying it. And what work is more worth while in these days?

A. V. L.



The dairy herd being driven back to the pasture after being milked



All in a day's work on the farm—Keeping a tractor running, and keeping the pigs contented

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars · London · E.C.4
DECEMBER 6 1952

SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS

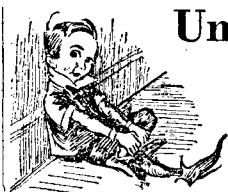
THAT art can only be worth while if it shows a profit is a sad fallacy of our times. If, for example, a local council reports a loss of £10,000 on its municipal orchestra, there are always people who draw the conclusion that the orchestra is unwanted and therefore should be abolished.

This important problem is dealt with in the recent report of the Arts Council which declares: "A subsidised municipal orchestra or playhouse 'makes a loss' merely in the same sense as the public library does."

Such losses are incurred because seats at moderate prices are provided. Thus a performance of grand opera at London's Covent Garden costs £540 more than is taken at the box-office when the house is full—as it nearly always is.

Covent Garden has a subsidy of £150,000 a year, but the cost of the orchestra and maintenance expenses exceed this. In France, it is pointed out, a grant of £900,000 is made to the Paris Opéra, and Opéra Comique.

If we want performances of the best music and drama we must be prepared to pay for them as a nation. Without national support, artistic enterprises will not survive; they cannot exist merely on box-office receipts.



Under the Editor's Table

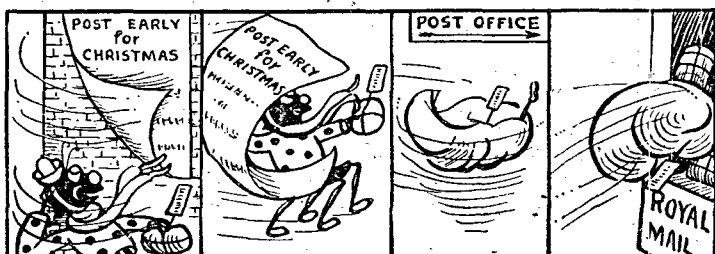
PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

If brass band
contests are re-
sounding events

A little girl complains that she has to wear her sister's old frocks turned up. She would rather turn them down.

Some U.S. Senators get high fees for making after-dinner speeches. Some diners think they themselves should get a fee for listening.

BILLY BEETLE



FLEET STREET'S FIRST HOUSE

THE recent excavation of part of a Roman wall and tessellated pavement just outside St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street, is believed to be the first discovery of a Roman house in this area of London, outside the ancient City walls.

We may well imagine that some well-to-do man's wife in Roman London grew tired of living among narrow streets and suggested, as so many millions have since: "Let's go and live out in the country; you can easily travel to and from your work every day."

So they moved out of the walled city and built a house in the fields, beside the pleasant little Fleet river where the birds sang all day, in what is now E.C.4. It was probably Fleet Street's first house.

Horse sauce

PEOPLE in the streets of Munich thought they were dreaming when a cab-horse joined in their conversation. The story of the talking horse was soon all over the city.

Then it was discovered that Dobbin's saucy remarks came from two loudspeakers concealed beside his head. Inside the cab were two human jokers who listened to people's conversations by means of a microphone hidden in the horse's headstall, and made appropriate comments in a horsey voice!

This recalls the story of the man to whom an unattended van-horse said: "Don't think I've always been doing this. I won the Derby in my young days."

When the van-driver came out of a shop, the astonished passer-by exclaimed: "Do you know your horse can talk?"

"Yes, but I never believe a single word he says," replied the driver, "he does so exaggerate!"

Half a million corks were damaged in a fire. Nobody could pull them out.

A town hall clock has been useless for years. People would like to see it go.

Seventeen Norwich firms are in a Tidiness for Safety competition. A tidy few.

A lady said she throws out hints when it is time for guests to go. Better than throwing out guests.

The Editor's Table

Ems and des

WHAT is a reembus? In the American Army it is a verb, meaning to get into a bus again after you have left it. Similarly, G.I.s embus and debus.

Though used to re-embarkation, and even more to devaluation, we do feel that there should be a limit to these prefixes.

We shudder at the thought of children asking their teacher if they may "deschool."

On patrol



Miss Ninette Gold, ex-ballerina, has become one of the RSPCA's first uniformed women patrol officers. She is holding a kitten which stowed away in a van and came all the way to London from Burton-on-Trent.

Better still

A PLAN now being considered by Unesco aims at protecting cultural property in time of war. States would undertake to respect all historic monuments, works of art, scientific collections, and museums in enemy countries.

An even better plan, of course, would be to outlaw war itself, so that cultural objects everywhere could be enjoyed by everyone in a world at peace.

Thirty Years Ago

BEFORE a wireless opera was performed in New York the amplifiers, which magnify the sound, were tested on canaries, and it was demonstrated that the trills of the canaries could be heard over a thousand miles.

Perhaps in future days some enterprising wireless firm will "broadcast" the canary's trills from its native thickets, and canaries in cages will become a thing of the past; or if we wish more exciting, natural music we shall be able to listen-in to a jungle and hear lions roaring, and tigers growling, and monkeys gibbering.

From the Children's Newspaper,
December 9, 1922

JUST AN IDEA

As W. M. Thackeray wrote: Under the magnetism of friendship the modest man becomes bold; the shy confident; the lazy active; or the impetuous, prudent and peaceful.

SUNSHINE FOR THE CHILDREN

CARING for little blind children is a labour of love—without love and its ceaseless, selfless toil the task could not be properly accomplished. Such devotion is immeasurable, but one can at least estimate the actual amount of physical work involved.

"Last year," says the Matron of one of the Sunshine Homes, "we washed 18,500 smalls, gave 7200 baths, shampooed 920 little heads, tucked up and said good-night at least 7000 times, served 220,000 meals for little people, and prepared 144,000 drinks of orange juice."

The National Institute for the Blind, which runs seven of these Sunshine Homes, is the largest organisation of its kind in the world, bringing to blind people every help that human ingenuity can devise. It deserves help from all of us at this coming Christmastide.

All part of a day's fishing

THE latest true fishing story concerns a young angler who "caught" five shillings and twopence! It comes from Oulton Broad in Suffolk, where George Borrow wrote Lavengro and Romany Rye.

Beside those peaceful waters the angler sat, quietly watching his float, when out of the corner of his eye he noticed the earth moving slightly on the bank beside him. A mole was surfacing, but instead of the little gentleman in velvet coat himself appearing, up popped two half-crowns and two pennies excavated by him.

The angler put them in his pocket and then returned his gaze to his float. Fishermen do not allow little happenings like that to disturb their serenity.

WINTER IS HERE

Black are my steps on silver sod;
Thick blows my frosty breath
abroad;
And tree and house, and hill
and lake,
Are frosted like a wedding-cake.

R. L. Stevenson

THINGS SAID

BUS conductors need the wisdom of Solomon, all the wiles of Delilah, the patience of Job, and more.

Mr. H. Mann, Brighton
traffic official.

WORK should have some meaning which is higher than that of mere usefulness here on Earth.

The Bishop of Berlin

TEACHERS have much in common with gardeners in knowing how to link the past with the present and the future.

Secretary, National
Savings Committee

PERSONALLY, I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught.

Mr. Winston Churchill

WE have now established a base camp from which we must start the really arduous climb back to security and prosperity.

Mr. R. A. Butler,
Chancellor of the Exchequer

I BELIEVE that music and sport are allied, with rhythm as the common factor.

Dame Myra Hess

THE more cricket bats given to boys, the fewer coshes they will want to handle.

Jack Young of Middlesex C. C.

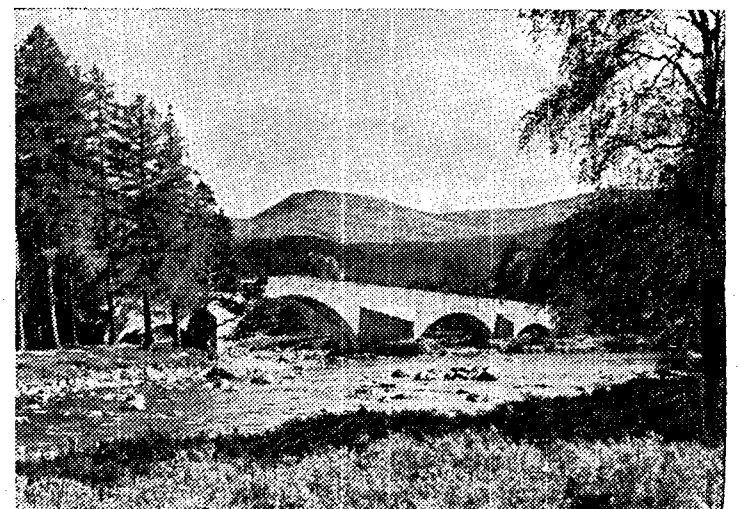
IN THE COUNTRY

IT is good to take a walk in December, when the morning mists have cleared and the low sun shines athwart the fields and the old church tower.

On cottage walls as we pass through a village the winter-flowering jasmine displays its gay yellow flowers—trailing sprays adorning the old stones as though for some winter festival. The jasmine always keeps its brightness before the world, its flowers shining like stars of hope.

Rivalling the bright glory of the jasmine is the gold of the gorse on the dark-green prickly bushes at the side of the lanes. Always ready to bloom at the touch of the winter sunshine, the gorse keeps its golden lamps alight in the grey days.

The gorse undergoes changes of raiment during the year, but is never naked like the thorns and the brambles.



OUR HOMELAND

Bridge across the River Dee
near Bracmar, Aberdeenshire

The Children's Newspaper, December 6, 1952

TOM SAWYER TALKS TO THE CN

An interview with Jeremy Spenser,
of TV, stage, and film fame

TOM SAWYER made his companions pay, if only in apple cores, for the privilege of whitewashing the garden fence for him. Jeremy Spenser, that promising young actor who plays the part of Tom Sawyer in the current television serial of Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn, also profits from his household chores.

After his one good deed of the day, which is usually taking his mother a morning cup of tea, a scale of charges comes into operation: threepence for running an errand, ninepence for cleaning windows, twopence for cleaning shoes.

Sadly, Jeremy told our correspondent that the shoe-cleaning charge had recently been reduced from threepence. "And even now," he added despairingly, "mother won't have her shoes cleaned every day. And nor will David."

David is Jeremy's elder brother, and it was through him that Jeremy got his chance as an actor. David, who has done more than 500 broadcasts, was the William of the Just William radio series in 1948.



Jeremy Spenser

As a result of his radio work he was invited to do a film test for the part of an Italian boy in Anna Karenina.

When he arrived at the studio, they looked at him and

said, "Sorry, you're too big." Concealing his disappointment, David said, "Well, I have a young brother and he's much smaller."

Jeremy was accordingly tested and given the part, and further small film roles followed. He was Dennis Price as a boy in Kind Hearts and Coronets, and Dennis Price's son in The Dancing Years. He was the French boy in The Spider and the Fly, and Margaret Johnston's son in Portrait of Clare.

The role that really made his name was that of the infant musical prodigy in Prelude to Fame. Again it was David who was in line for the part, but by the time the film was ready to start shooting David was touring Europe with Benjamin Britten's opera company; and the film company was left still needing a boy who could look Italian and was extremely musical.

NO MUSICAL PRODIGY

Jeremy explained coyly to our correspondent that he was musical; he could play the piano. Mrs. Spenser, a gold medallist at the Royal College of Music, said bluntly that if there was anything musical about Jeremy's playing she had yet to discover it. He did play the piano, true; he played the piano as though it hurt, and even if you were two rooms away it still hurt!

The saving grace was that as a baby Jeremy used to conduct with knitting needles while his mother

practised, and he became quite good—with knitting needles! Knitting needles anyway won the day, for Jeremy had an audition and won the part. The film, Prelude to Fame, became his own prelude to fame—a fame that took him to the recent Royal Film Performance as the young Winston Churchill (complete with Harrobian straw hat and a cigar) and a backstage recording of a Churchillian speech to which Jeremy mouthed the words.

HIS GREAT MOMENT

Royalty, Churchill, Montgomery, Eisenhower — young Jeremy Spenser has met them all. But the thrill of his life was that Royal Film Performance—not his appearance on the stage but that in the foyer Charlie Chaplin put his arm round him and signed his autograph book.

"And he didn't sign anybody else's book but mine," said Jeremy triumphantly.

Until two years ago Jeremy Spenser had made up his mind that he was going to be a doctor. He still maintains a small surgery at home where he treats cuts and bruises, and applies bandages—and, to avoid unfair competition with the National Health Service, charges an appropriate fee.

Surgery fees, together with earnings from housework, bring his weekly half-a-crown pocket money up to an income of four or five shillings a week; which, said Mrs. Spenser, he promptly blues on comics, ice cream, and lime juice cordials.

TWO POINTS OF VIEW

Serious plans for a medical career were abandoned when (Jeremy's version) acting at last got thoroughly into his blood; and when (Mrs. Spenser's version) they had to face the truth that "Jeremy did not stand a chance of ever passing his school certificate, let alone stiff medical examinations."

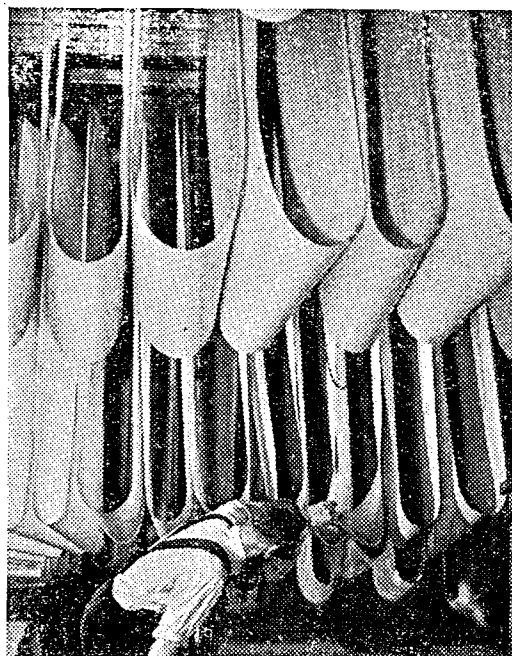
In the present TV serial it is a wig that you see Jeremy wearing as Tom Sawyer. His hair has to be very blonde for his role in The Innocents at Her Majesty's Theatre, London; so, much to his disgust, he has to go to a ladies' hairdresser to have it bleached.

"Frightful, isn't it?" he said. "I slink in and hope no one can see me."

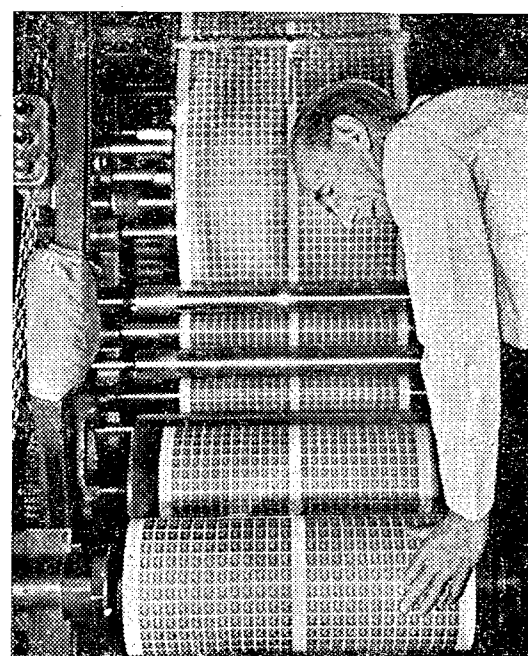
Another of the hazards of being a juvenile actor, it seems, is that other boys are apt to pull faces and yell out, "Yah! Silly old film star!"

"Jeremy is so stupid," said Mrs. Spenser. "He never stops to see how much bigger the boys may be. He just hares after them and wades straight in."

PRINTING QUEEN ELIZABETH'S STAMPS



Drying the paper on which stamps will be printed



Newly-printed sheets of stamps coming off the press

THE first postage stamps of Queen Elizabeth's reign will be on sale in our post offices this Friday, December 5.

They are the red 2½d. and green 1½d., and Her Majesty recently paid a visit to the great printing works at High Wycombe, in Buckinghamshire, to see the first sheets bearing her portrait being run off the machines at the rate of more than two million stamps an hour.

A number of well-known artists submitted designs for the stamps, and though these were considered by the Postmaster-General and a panel from the Council of Industrial Design, it was the Queen herself who gave the final decision and selected the stamps we shall all be buying this week.

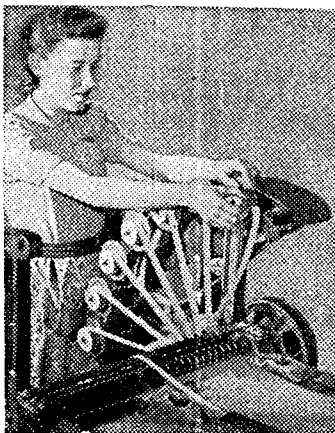
Other values will be issued at intervals in the New Year, but it will be up to six months before stocks of the current issue are exhausted.

NINETEEN VALUES

There are 19 different values of stamps ranging from ½d. to £1. The heaviest sale is for the 2½d. denomination.

We cannot use any colours we like for the various kinds because, like most countries, Britain belongs to the Universal Postal Union, and colours have been internationally agreed. That is why we made a number of changes a short time ago to bring our colours into line with the general agreement.

Queen Elizabeth's will be only the sixth royal portrait that has appeared on our stamps—two queens and four kings—since they came into use for the first time on



Making up rolls of stamps for automatic machines

May 6, 1840. When the design for those original adhesive stamps was under consideration it was suggested that the portrait of Rowland Hill, the founder of the inland penny postage system, ought to appear, but Queen Victoria decided that they should bear her own picture. Those famous first stamps, known as the Queen Victoria Penny Blacks, are still regarded by some collectors as the most beautiful stamps ever issued.

The Penny Blacks were cancelled by a red postmark, but dishonest people found a way to wash off the red and use the stamps again. Their colour was therefore changed to red, and an indelible black ink was used for the cancelling. We have kept to black for cancelling ever since.

20 MILLION A DAY

We now use more than 7000 million postage stamps a year. Every working day 20 million must be printed, examined by expert girl checkers, and stored away in locked vaults ready for issue to the 24,000 post offices in this country to keep pace with public demand.

Stamps are printed on special watermarked paper called Royal Cypher paper. It is made from rags at a mill in Devonshire that was established in 1750. Work continues there for 24 hours a day, and there is still an ancient water-mill helping the modern steam turbine to turn the machinery.

The rags are first chopped into small pieces, chemicals are added, and the mixture is boiled and churned into pulp. Then in goes china clay from Cornwall to give the paper a fine finished surface.

The watery pulp, looking somewhat like thin milk, is spread on a wire mesh belt and carried onto drying blankets passing over steam-heated rollers. It is at this stage that the Royal Cypher watermark is impressed.

The paper is then ready for

despatch to the printers, where it is gummed. The gum is produced from Agave cactus plants of North Africa.

The lower-value stamps from ½d. to 1s. are printed by the photogravure process, and the 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., and £1 stamps by the recess process. The yearly consumption of the high value stamps is 242,500 sheets of 40 stamps.

At the photogravure printing works the artist's original design is first photographed in the ordinary way and a negative four times the actual stamp-size made. This image is projected 480 times on to a photographic plate, producing 480 stamp-size pictures neatly separated to allow room for the perforations between the rows and columns of stamps.

The images are then transferred to a printing cylinder of copper which is fitted to a rotary press. A number of these cylinders are made, and each can print up to half-a-million sheets of 240 stamps before imperfections appear. Each printing machine can turn out 5000 sheets an hour.

STAMP NEWS

A TRINIDAD curios dealer bought a lot of 20 old books at an auction for 6s. 3d. Later, he found in one of them a copy of the rare Hawaiian 1851 "missionary" two-cent blue stamps, worth perhaps several thousand pounds.

Two United Nations stamps will be issued in America next week to honour Human Rights Day.

THE Pan-Pacific Boy Scouts' Jamboree to be held near Sydney between December 29 and January 6 will be commemorated by a 3½d. stamp depicting a Scout. A post office is to be set up there to sell the stamps and special souvenir covers.

STAMPS planned for the future include five in Sweden honouring the Golden Jubilee of the National Athletic Association, a set in Thailand depicting historic scenes and heroes, and a set in Australia to encourage the Junior Farm Movement.

ANNIVERSARY OF TOWN ON WHEELS

The strangest town in the world is celebrating its jubilee. It is Lakewood, in Western Australia, a mobile town that moves from place to place because its sole purpose is to supply timber to the goldfields. At present it is 12 miles from where it last stood.

Every year Lakewood sends some 300,000 tons of timber to the mines, and as forests are cut down it moves on to a new location. Thus has it been blazing a trail through timber country since 1902.

When it settles down at a new site, this gipsy-like town assumes an air of permanence. Its homes have gardens with fruit trees and fences. It has a post office, station, school, offices, shops, police station, recreation hall, and work-shops.

Lakewood even has its own railway to lay down when it moves on to the next location.

NO HOUSING PROBLEMS

Everything is then loaded onto the railway trucks; even the fruit trees and fences are shifted, together with the comfortable homes with their rose bushes and shrubs and the 550 inhabitants.

Lakewood can claim to be one of the few communities without housing problems. As a family grows new rooms are added, made from the timber on the spot. It can also claim that its housewives have no food difficulties; fresh meat and vegetables arrive daily, and the houses have refrigeration and electricity.

It would be hard to find a more contented community in Australia, even though all of its members may perhaps be likened to rolling stones.

Having been on its present site for a considerable time, Lakewood will doubtless soon be wheeling itself off to another spot.

Steps to Sporting Fame



A feature of international Soccer this season is the advance of Ireland. This is to the credit of the players and also to their team-manager Peter Doherty.



Born at Magherafelt, County Derry, Peter started his Soccer career playing on waste land in his ordinary everyday clothes. Soon after leaving school he was given a place in the Glentoran team (Irish League).



Peter left Glentoran for Blackpool, moved to Manchester City, and won a League Championship medal; to Derby County to win a Cup medal; then to Huddersfield, and finally to Doncaster Rovers as player-manager.



One of the best of all inside forwards, Doherty was an automatic selection for Ireland from 1935 to 1951 (war years excepted). He struck an original note by using canvas lacrosse boots for matches on hard ground.

SANTA CLAUS OF BLESSED MEMORY

St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus, as we usually call him, is in the thoughts of most of us on Christmas Eve; but in the Church Calendar December 6 is his day, and in the Netherlands particularly it is an occasion for great rejoicing. To the Dutch he is the beloved Sinter Klaas.

The son of wealthy Greek parents, St. Nicholas was born about the middle of the third century. Early in life he joined a religious order and gave all his money away to the poor and deserving.

Often this was done secretly, as in the case of the impoverished nobleman whose three daughters could not find suitable husbands because he had no money for dowries. The story goes that Nicholas threw a bag of gold on three successive nights into the nobleman's living room, and that it was only through the mystified parent lying in wait for the unknown benefactor that he found out to whom he was indebted.

VENERATED SAINT

In due course the young monk became Archbishop of Myra, in Lycea, Asia Minor, and many are the miracles attributed to him. He is the patron saint of Russia and Greece, and many hundreds of English churches are dedicated to him.

Sailors also have him as their patron saint, as well as merchants and pawnbrokers—hence their emblem representing the three bags of gold. Above all, he is the special saint of children.

He died in Myra in 342, and was buried in his cathedral there, but in 1087 his supposed remains were brought to Italy and reinterred in the church of San Nicola, Bari, which is visited every year by thousands of pilgrims.

AN EARLY FRIEND OF THE NEGRO SLAVES

Just a hundred years have passed since the death of Frances Wright, a remarkable woman who sacrificed her health and her money to help the Negro slaves of America.

She was born in Dundee in 1795, but lost both parents when she was only two-and-a-half. An aunt brought her up and she grew into a fine-looking woman.

Her parents had left her well-provided for, but she scorned a life of ease. When she was only 18 she wrote a book on philosophy which was later published, and she had a burning desire to improve the condition of her fellow creatures.

When Frances Wright was 23 she sailed to America with her younger sister, and soon became interested in the lot of the Negro slaves there. She was, in fact, one of the first to point out to Americans how important it was that they should solve the slavery problem.

She tried to show a way by buying land in Tennessee and settling Negroes on it, hoping that they would make themselves independent by their labours.

She wanted, she said, to establish a community founded on affection, kind actions, and respect for the feelings and liberties of others.

She strained herself to the utmost limits to help them. Her health broke down from overwork and exposure to the sun in the fields; then she contracted brain fever and had to go back to Europe.

Her settlement was a failure and the Negroes were sent to Haiti;

TREES FOR ICELAND

Iceland is a country practically devoid of trees, and every year has to import great quantities of timber. But she is now planning to have forests and is looking round the world for saplings which will flourish in hard, icy ground.

The United Nations has introduced the Iceland woodmen to the Alaska foresters and between them they are preparing to solve Iceland's problem—another little instance of the friendly co-operation of the nations.

but when her health recovered she returned to America and travelled the country, lecturing about slavery.

Her appearances caused a sensation, for women speakers were then almost unknown. She would appear on the platform surrounded by Quaker ladies in their traditional dress. She herself was an arresting figure, tall, handsome, and majestic, with deep and solemn eyes. Mrs. Trollope describes her as wearing a garment of plain white muslin which hung around her in folds, like the drapery of a Greek statue.

In addition to urging the solution of the slavery problem, this good woman was one of the first advocates of votes for women. She created a vast impression and "Fanny Wright societies" were founded to spread her ideas.

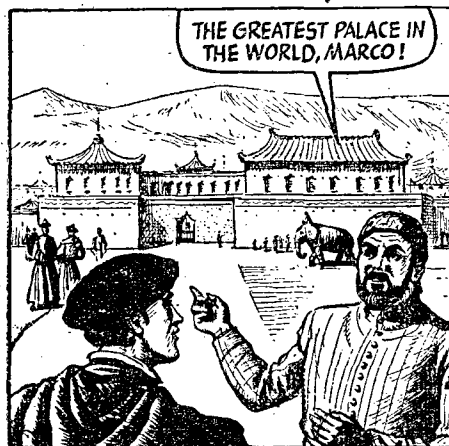
When she was 43 she made an unhappy marriage with a Frenchman, M. Piquet-Darumont. Eight years later, on December 2, 1852, she died at Cincinnati. She deserves remembrance.

MARCO POLO'S AMAZING ADVENTURES—the story of an epic journey (4)

Marco Polo and his father and uncle had taken about three and a half years to reach China, having presumably stopped for considerable periods at various stages. They

had carried out one of the most formidable journeys in the history of human travel, crossing regions then unknown to Europeans. Their chief means of protection was Kublai

Khan's golden tablet which was a sign throughout the Mongol Emperor's vast dominions that the travellers, whom the mighty ruler esteemed, were to be given help.



THE GREATEST PALACE IN THE WORLD, MARCO!



SPEAK NOT TO ME OF MERCY!



YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS REQUIRED MY PRESENCE?

The Polos went with the Emperor's retinue to Peking. Marco was amazed at the size of the city and the magnificence of the palace. His father and uncle, wealthy men, engaged in trade, but Marco set himself to learn the Mongol language. His diligence pleased Kublai, who gave him a position as second class commissioner to the Privy Council. The Emperor liked employing foreigners in his civil service.

The Polos were invited to attend a state banquet of dazzling splendour. Before it began, Kublai's 5000 elephants brought the plates, and thousands of camels carried the food and drink. The noblemen were arrayed in suits covered with jewels. Every time the Emperor drank, all the guests had to kneel. A lion was brought in that had been trained to bow to Kublai Khan and lie quietly beside his chair.

Marco soon found that Kublai's favourite minister, Ahmad, a Mohammedan, was a cruel scoundrel, who abused his immense power, and executed innocent people. Everyone dreaded him, but Kublai would not hear a word against him. Two Chinese officials plotted to kill Ahmad while Kublai was away. They sent a false message to the tyrannical minister saying that the Emperor's son wished to see him at once.

Unsuspectingly, Ahmad went to the Peking palace and was conducted to a small room that was partly in darkness. One of the plotters was sitting there dressed like the Prince, and Ahmad knelt before him. At that the other conspirator cut off his head. When Ahmad's death was reported to Kublai, he ordered an immediate investigation, and the execution of all the people concerned in the conspiracy.

Marco had nothing to do with this plot, but will he be suspected? See next week's instalment

Cross-Channel Quest

by GARRY HOGG

My sister Nessa, myself, and our guardian, Bruce Halliday, have come to Mont St. Michel in pursuit of four foreign agents. Bruce steals the brief-cases of two of them, and calls in the Sûreté.

14. The round-up

"COME on," said Bruce. "Let's meet them."

We set off along the ramparts—the same stretch along which I had pelted as hard as I could after that unfortunate meeting with Mr. A. There was hardly anyone about now, and it would have been easy enough to run, if we had wanted to, except that in the half light the unexpected steps would have been treacherous.

Down the steps we went, and turned left, under the arch with the house on it, and so to the gateway. There was no one coming in, and only ourselves going out—very different from when we had first arrived! We approached our car. Bruce gave a low, wobbling, penetrating whistle that sounded as though he was doing it under water, and Pierre emerged from the shadow.

"Et bien?" he asked.

"Tout va bien," Bruce replied, and we knew what he meant by that!

Pierre held out something in the palm of his hand, and we saw four car tyre valves. "It is a thing most curious," he said, in English this time, "but there is a big Renault over there with four flat tyres!"

Bruce laughed. "You think of everything, Pierre," he said, and smote him on the shoulder. He was in an excellent humour. Just then we became aware of foot-steps, regular footsteps and heavy, and up came a squad of solid looking men.

"Good old Sûreté!" Bruce said.

The men came to a halt and one of them crossed over to us and shook hands, first with Bruce and then with Pierre. Nessa and I felt quite out of things!

"Let's get into the car," Bruce said, and the five of us all piled in. Of course, they all jabbered away in French, and Nessa and I only got a word or two here and there. (Memo. Work harder at French next term and ever afterwards, in case a trip like this comes our way a second time!)

"Et voici," Bruce said, unexpectedly turning to Nessa and me and tapping our rucksacks, "nous en avons dedans, vous savez!" He broke off short and laughed, and the others laughed too, and asked him a question we did not quite understand.

"Sans l'aide de ces deux enfants-ci je n'aurais pas pu arranger ça," Bruce said, and you can bet we got most of that! Then he glanced at the luminous dial of his watch.

"They should be assembled by now," he said "En avant!"

We gave them ten minutes' start.

Then, leaving the two precious rucksacks in Pierre's charge, and one officer with him, we followed the main body of the Sûreté men back through the archway. We turned off the street, up that same flight of steps, and so to the ramparts. They were almost deserted by now; but Bruce, who was leading, stopped after a bit and motioned us to keep still.

We saw why. We had nearly reached the point on the ramparts directly beneath the overhanging balconies. There was a bright light shining through the french windows of the second one, though

THE SILKEN SECRET by GEOFFREY TREASE

Begins on this page next week . . .

"It was a blustery wet night, late in August and late in the reign of Queen Anne, when mystery entered the respectable house of Mr. Cogwell, a London merchant."

ours naturally was in darkness. And standing motionless by the parapet were three of the Sûreté men, watching intently.

Then it happened. Suddenly there was a great commotion up above us and shadows moved on the windows. Then the windows burst open and a dark shape appeared on the balcony. There was a shrill whistle from inside the room, and the three Sûreté men braced themselves.

Was someone going to risk almost certain death by jumping from that balcony? We remembered how far away the ramparts had looked to us from up there as we watched Bruce jump from one to the other and back again. And he did it in daylight.

YOUNG QUIZ



- 1 What is France's equivalent of Scotland Yard?
- 2 Why do salmon return to the river in which they were born?
- 3 What is the Freedom of a City or Borough?
- 4 Fastidious means quick-moving, difficult to see, or difficult to please?
- 5 What are the Elgin Marbles?
- 6 For what virtue is Job specially remembered?
- 7 Where were the first British pillar-boxes set up?
- 8 The score in ice-hockey is by goals, by points, or both?

Answers on page 12

"Gosh, oh gosh!" I said, unable to check myself. For a dark figure, broad and squat, had appeared on the outside of the balcony, its legs swinging in the air. Suddenly it dropped, hit the ramparts, and lay still. And then the Sûreté men closed in.

"They're surrounded up there," Bruce said. "Come on."

We turned back on our tracks to the gateway again, glad enough to get away from the crumpled figure. And there we waited, standing very still in deep shadow.

After a little while there was the heavy tramp of boots on the cobbles, and into a patch of moonlight there came two plain-clothes men, with someone between them, handcuffed but struggling and protesting in no language we had ever heard.

Behind him came another, likewise struggling and handcuffed, but in silence. It was Mr. C. His pale face caught the moonlight and we could see his twisted lower lip. And others after him—nine or ten in all, we counted, growling and wrenching at their handcuffs, but hemmed in on each side by stocky, impassive Sûreté men.

"Oh, nice work!" Bruce muttered. "What a haul, my lads!"

We followed them out through the gateway. A big closed van had turned up, and into it the men were unceremoniously bundled. The plain-clothes men waited about for a few minutes, lighting cigarettes, not speaking. But from inside the locked van there arose a hubbub of furious voices, clamouring and protesting.

We could imagine them all cooped up inside: enemies, every one of them, of our own country, who had met on Mont St. Michel to plan further villainies. Double-crossers among them, too, like the ones in the Renault who had offered their services when the black Citroën had been so mysteriously put out of action!

"Isn't it satisfying, somehow, to see so many of them all trapped at the same time?" Nessa whispered.

The van drove off, with its cargo of quarrelling and protesting prisoners, leaving the three of us alone on the dyke. Then, not far away, Pierre leaned out from the driver's seat of our car. "Quoi done?" he called out in an irritable voice. "Vous venez?"

"Quite right, Pierre!" Bruce said. "We're wasting our time. Yes, we're coming now." He bundled us into the car. "Right away, Pierre," he said, and slammed the door.

VERY soon the lighted windows of Mont St. Michel were getting smaller and smaller behind us. We looked back at them and watched until they were no more than pin-points, hardly bigger than the smallest of the stars.

"Goodbye, Saint Michael's Mount," Nessa said, waving back through the window. "We'll come again, as real sightseers, next time, I hope!"

"I wonder if you realise how much those rucksacks of yours are worth at this moment?" Bruce said. "Not thousands of pounds, but millions. In fact, there's no

Continued on page 19

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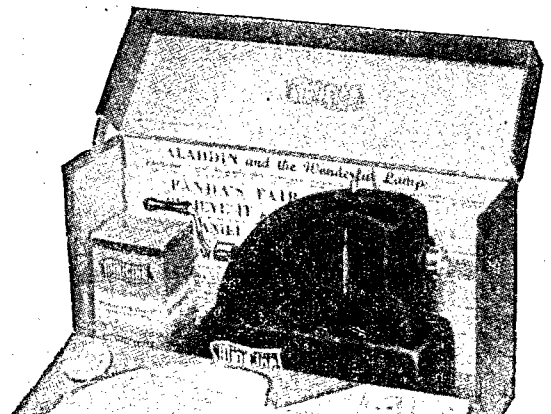
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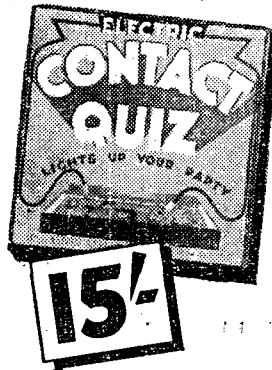
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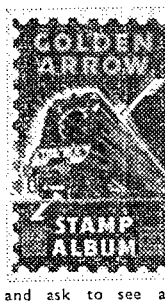
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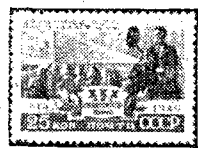
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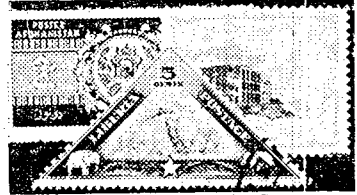
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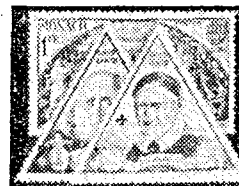
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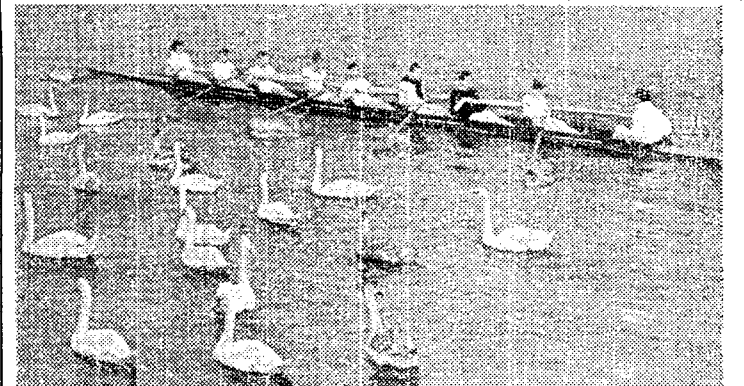
SPORTS SHORTS

JIM LAKER, the Surrey and England spin bowler, has been awarded the title of New Zealand Bowler of the Year. This may sound strange, but Laker spent last winter as professional to the Auckland Cricket Association, and during the Plunket Shield matches took 24 wickets.

ERIC EDRIKH, who has played cricket for Norfolk and Lancashire, is to become a farmer in New Zealand. Three other sons of William Edrich, Buckinghamshire farmer and cricketer, are eminent in county cricket—W. J., with Middlesex, Brian, with Kent, and George, with Lancashire.

WITHIN a few weeks of being in Australia 16-year-old Billy Knight, British junior lawn tennis champion, gave the best performance of his career when he took Lewis Hoad to five sets. Hoad, himself only 17, is a member of Australia's Davis Cup team and has beaten many of the world's leading players.

IAN CRAIG, 17-year-old batting star of New South Wales, may become the youngest cricketer ever to represent Australia in a Test Match against England. Described as a "second Bradman," he is already being tipped as a possible for next year's touring team.



Swans were among the interested spectators when a St. Thomas's Hospital junior eight were out practising on the Thames at Putney.

FULL-BACK in the Oxford University Rugby XV last season was Chris Saunders, from Hilton College, South Africa. When the Dark Blues meet Cambridge at Twickenham next week the Oxford full-back may be Dennis Robinson, who also learned the game at Hilton College. There is also every possibility of them being on opposing sides when England meet Scotland at Twickenham in March, for Saunders is eligible to play for Scotland and Robinson for England.

PLAYING against Pakistan in his 23rd Test Match, Vinoo Mankad, the famous Indian all-rounder, became the holder of the fastest double—100 wickets and 1000 runs—in Test cricket. The previous record for the double was 27 Tests, held by the former Australian captain M. A. Noble.

AN innovation to aid competitors will be seen at the British Women's Ice-skating Championships at Streatham on Thursday. To mark the boundary of the compulsory figures area three-foot beacons will be placed at ten-foot intervals. These will replace ropes which, if run into, cause the loss of valuable points.

THE 1952 British lawn tennis ranking lists made by Colonel Legg, the Wimbledon referee, show several encouraging changes. Eighteen-year-old Roger Becker, unranked last year, earns fifth place, and two 16-year-olds, Billy Knight and Robert Wilson, are ranked 10 and 11—the first time for many years that players so young have appeared. In the women's list 20-year-old Angela Mortimer advances from ninth position to third.

CROSS-CHANNEL QUEST

Continued from page 9

limit to the vital information our experts will collect from an analysis of their contents, which I doubt if I could ever have got hold of without—

"—L'aide de ces deux enfants-ci!" Nessa ended for him, quoting his words and putting out the tip of her tongue. "You know, you made Lance and me feel quite small when you were talking about us! After all—"

"Mademoiselle," Bruce said, bowing as best he could inside the car, "je le regrette infiniment!"

"You're forgiven—this time," Nessa said generously, and Bruce bowed again, and included me in the second bow.

"Look!" I said. Moored not far from the dyke and rocking gently on the swell, was the scaplane that had brought the

Sûreté men. We had picked her out for a moment in our headlights; then she was swallowed up in the darkness again.

"Where now?" Pierre asked, soon afterwards, as we were running into Pontorson.

"The best restaurant we can find, first," Bruce answered. "Then a night drive to Paris, Pierre. And then the morning plane for London and home, with our precious haul safe in my two colleagues' rucksacks. This has been as lively a twenty-four hours as I can remember for some time past; and with as profitable a result. I think we may safely say: Our quest is ended!"

The end

THE SILKEN SECRET
by GEOFFREY TREASE
Begins next week. Don't miss it

The Children's Newspaper, December 6, 1952

DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES

Still dependent on Public Support



About 7000 children in our care will be hanging up their stockings on Christmas Eve in readiness for the visit of Father Christmas. Will you make a point of seeing that they are not disappointed by sending a Christmas Gift.

Postal Orders or cheques for any amount will be warmly welcomed. They should be crossed, made payable to "Dr. Barnardo's Homes," and sent to 8 Barnardo House, Stepney Causeway, London, E.1.

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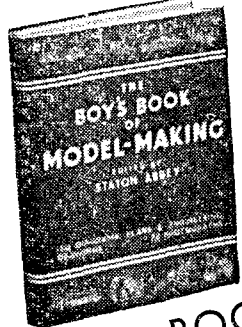
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WARD LOCK

WHEN NEW ZEALAND NEARLY BECAME A FRENCH COLONY

Microfilm copies of documents relating to France's early connection with New Zealand have been acquired by the Dominion Government.

French navigators first became interested in New Zealand in the latter part of the 18th century. Even while Captain Cook was hoisting the Union Jack there in 1770 a French ship was also off the coast, and reached the Three Kings Island within a few days of Cook.

But the ships never met and never knew of each other—though indeed the captain of the French ship might well have annexed New Zealand. Actually, our Government at home paid little attention to Cook's report and the country remained unowned, anybody's for the taking.

In 1828 a French mission was established at Hokianga in the North Island by Bishop Pompallier, though the first sermon ever preached in New Zealand had been by a Yorkshireman, Samuel Marsden, on Christmas Day in 1814, and British missionaries worked among the Maoris.

In the late '30s a French company, La Compagnie Nanto-Bordelaise, was formed under the patronage of King Louis-Philippe to colonise New Zealand.

This news alarmed the British

Government. Previously they had turned a deaf ear to the entreaties of a great Empire-builder, Edward Gibbon Wakefield, that they should recognise the British settlers as colonists of the new country. Goaded into action by the French enterprise, they ordered Captain Hobson of the Royal Navy to sail to New Zealand. Also on the way to Maori-land were French ships with settlers.

Hobson won the race, reaching the Bay of Islands in January 1840. He hoisted the Union Jack, and his ship saluted the flag with her guns—which delighted the Maoris who had never heard so much noise in their lives! Soon after he signed with the Maoris the Treaty of Waitangi guaranteeing to them the possession of their lands, forests, and fisheries.

About three months later the French ships arrived, and some of the pioneers from them landed and settled down as British subjects.

Many of their descendants flourish in the Dominion today, particularly in the neighbourhood of Akaroa, near Christchurch, where their ancestors landed in 1840.

French Ministers to New Zealand are always interested in this little Gallic community which has played its part in forging a new nation.

ISLAND OF CONTENT

During 1950 and 1951 not one inhabitant of the remote British island-colony of Tristan da Cunha was brought before the magistrate.

This fact is disclosed in a recent Colonial Office report which also reveals that the island's population now numbers 270, comprising 63 separate families.

The islanders are now able to work for a fishing company which was established on Tristan in 1949; but few do so regularly, for they are unwilling to give up their traditional pursuits in order to become full-time factory workers.

Like all British colonies, Tristan's inhabitants share in their own government. An Island Council of ten men and five women assists the Administrator appointed by the British Government. Among other things, the Council has power to levy rates and taxes and enforce by-laws.

BICYCLES FOR TWO C.N. READERS

Congratulations to the following two readers, who have each won a bicycle for their entries in our Painting Competition (No. 12) of November 1.

Patricia Anthony, 39 Kensington Terrace, Leeds, 6;

William Masters, 38 Reedley Road, Reedley, near Burnley.

Ten 10s. notes have been awarded as consolation prizes to: Hazel Bowyer, Ascot; Delan Cookson, Bournemouth; Neil Cossons, Nottingham; Christopher Duckenfield, Shaw; Andrew Elliott, Sunderland; Myanah Godivala, Bristol, 7; Stephen Gleave, Sheffield; Sylvia Hall, Wakefield; Margery Hardwick, London, N.21; J. D. Wilson, Houghton-le-Spring.

LINK WITH TRAFALGAR

Mr. W. L. Wilks, a Gravesend monumental mason, has voluntarily undertaken to restore an old tombstone in the churchyard of the Medway valley village of Wouldham.

It is, of course, no ordinary stone. The inscription reads: "Sacred to the fame of Walter Burke, Esq., of this parish, who died on the 12th of September 1815, in the 70th year of his Age. He was purser on His Majesty's Ship VICTORY in the glorious battle of Trafalgar, and in his arms the immortal Nelson died."

Each year on Trafalgar Day the village children place posies on the old sailor's grave.

NEW HARRIER FOR BRITAIN

Three species of harriers are among our native British birds—Montagu's, marsh, and hen-harrier. Now a fourth species, the pallid harrier, has been found near Hutton Cranswick in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

This bird, which has been identified in the British Isles only on two previous occasions, comes from south-west Asia and spends the winter in Africa and China. One of the bird's characteristics is its low-level flight when in search of frogs, lizards, small snakes, and birds on which it feeds.

PRICKLY CARGO

Holly from Britain is among the present exports by air to Canada, where it is in great demand for Christmas decoration. Many flowers are also being flown to the Dominion, where there is a ready market for them.

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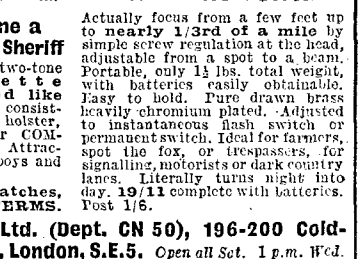
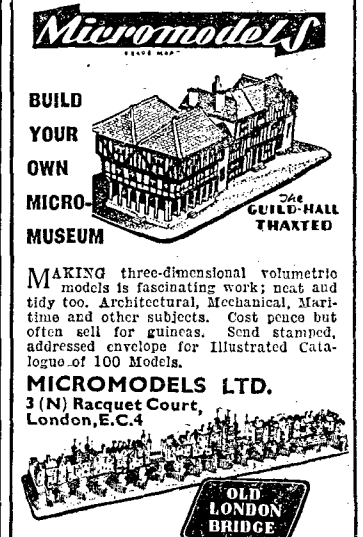
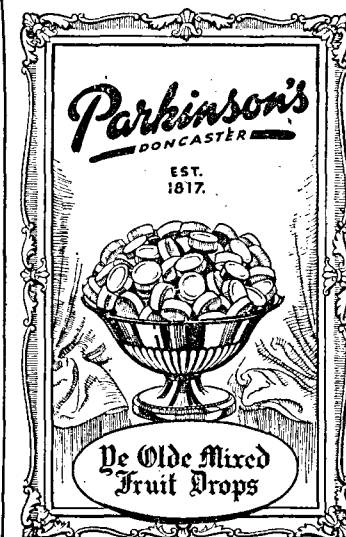
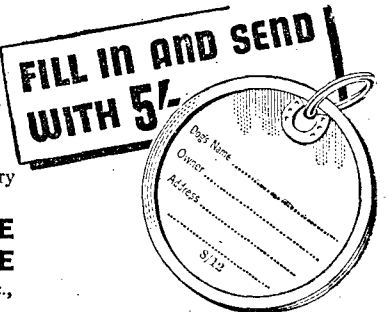
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THE BRAN TUB

CAUGHT

AN angler was reaching the climax of his favourite fishing story.

"And when I finally got it in after 20 minutes, it was as long as this," he said, stretching his arms wide. "I never saw such a fish in all my life."

"I can quite believe you," said his listener with a twinkle in his eye.

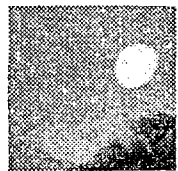
A problem

THE slippery slope is ten miles long, It's hard work for young Jack. For after each three-mile ascent, He slithers two miles back. Walking at three miles per hour, Without a single step, Just how long will it be before He sets foot at the top?

Two. Eight hours: he reaches the top at the end of the eighth hour, before slipping back.

OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Mars and Venus are in the south-west, and Jupiter is in the east. In the morning Saturn is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at seven o'clock on



Friday morning, December 5.

Cold logic

WHAT made the rain-drops? It saw the snow fall.

BEDTIME CORNER

Mr Portly takes up table tennis

MR. PORTLY stopped washing and pricked up his ears. There was that interesting sound coming again from the playroom: Pat! Ping Pat! Pong!

Purring with excitement he pattered off upstairs and peeped round the playroom door. Yes. He was right. Ann and Christopher were playing with his ping-pong ball. Backwards and forwards on the table it was bouncing. So up there he leapt and swiped at it with his paw.

"B other you!" cried Christopher, lifting him down. "This isn't your ball. I know it's like it, but this is ours, belonging to our new table tennis set."

Gathering from Christopher's voice that he had not done quite the right thing, Mr. Portly sat still and watched.

He saw then that they were hitting the ball with bats, not just bouncing it as they did to him; and that a net was now fixed across the table. Besides,



there was his own ball lying in its usual corner.

But as the children went on playing, the fascinating sound of the ball bouncing was too much for him. Leaping onto the table again, he crouched alongside the net and biffed at the ball each time it passed.

"You'll have to go downstairs," said Christopher at that. But Ann said: "Why don't we try to have a game with him?"

And so, leaving Mr. Portly sitting on one side of the net, Ann went to the other end of the table and tapped the ball over. Up went Mr. Portly's paw, and knocked it back. And so they continued, each scoring a point when the other knocked the ball into the net or off the table.

No one would ever dream of calling it proper table tennis, but Ann and Christopher voted it the best game they had played—and they were sure that Mr. Portly agreed.

JANE THORNICROFT

VICTORY IN THE BAG FOR BABY JACKO



The Jacko Scouts fearlessly trod the trail—"Ready for anything."

Vanishing trick

THERE was a young lady of Bath, Who was almost as thin as a lath. While helping to lay Crazy paving one day, She slipped through a crack in the path.

Curious

LITTLE JOHNNY had been asking a lot of questions. Finally, Uncle said: "Have you never heard that curiosity killed the cat?"

Johnny was nonplussed for a moment. Then he asked: "And what was it that the cat wanted to know?"

Why not?

THE best things in the world Are free—or so they say. Why not, we want to know, Then give ice-creams away?



But they were far from ready when Baby burst his bag with a bang.

Wrong letter

IN the following sentence are ten words containing one wrong letter apiece. What are the correct words?

Mother said: "I want you to glean and polish the grass, bash the steps, bake the potato watch, feed the flower bees, trip the hedge, and bend the date."

Answer next week

Brush up

"MUMMY, is this really a camel hair brush?" asked Jean eyeing her paint brush.

"Yes, dear," assured her mother. "Well, it must take it an awful long time to brush itself."

RODDY



"But, Mummy, what is it when it isn't a table?"

CHAIN QUIZ

Solutions to the following clues are linked, the last two letters of the first answer being the first two letters of the second, and so on.

1. River rising in the Black Forest and emptying itself into the Black Sea; it is one of the longest in Europe.

2. Famous author and historian; born in Paris in 1870, he became a naturalised British subject in 1902; has written more than 100 books.

3. A sea mollusc which mostly inhabits rocky coasts; when frightened it lets out a cloud of black fluid to cover its retreat.

4. Market town and river in Monmouthshire; town has ruins of castle built in 12th century.

Answer next week



Fancy being put to flight by Baby! Their pride was also burst that day!

Hidden flowers

Can you spot the flowers hidden in these sentences?

HE was a hero, sending us every possible help.

Ada is younger than I thought. Did you find the pans you were looking for?

John and Eric love rice pudding. Lend me a safety-pin, Kathleen. Once land in England all belonged to great earls.

Answers next week

YOUNG QUIZ—answers

1. The Paris Sûreté.
2. To spawn.
3. Nowadays it is a compliment bestowed on a distinguished man; at one time it meant valuable privileges such as not having to pay local taxes.
4. Difficult to please.
5. Collection of early Greek sculpture brought by Lord Elgin to this country in 1812 from the Acropolis at Athens.
6. Patience.
7. Channel Islands.
8. Goals.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS SILENT OWLS.

"Urgh!" squealed Ann, as a large bird suddenly drifted low over the stack-yard, almost brushing her forehead before vanishing in the gathering dusk.

"It was only an owl," her brother Don reassured her.

"Funny! It didn't seem to make the slightest sound," remarked Don.

"Owls are noted for their silent flight," explained Farmer Gray. "It is one of the reasons which makes owls such a menace to the creatures on which they prey. The astonishing quantity of rats, mice, voles, and other pests which owls destroy annually makes them invaluable birds."

Behead and curtail

I'm a word of five letters and tell of a sly And cowardly movement of one passing by; Take one letter off and I can unite, Take another and sometimes you need me to write. Remove still another and see! I'm not out; Take off yet one more and you'll find me, no doubt.

Answer next week

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Riddle my town
Sheffield
Hidden players
Chi-holm, Edwards,
Sherwood, Stiffall
Guess what
Chiming clock
Chain Quiz
Clapham, America,
Caruso, Somerset
Riddle in rhyme
Perch

S	P	A	I	S	V	E	A	L
H	S	T	A	I	N	I		
U	S	A	P	A	C	H	E	
A	P	P	L	E	A	I	D	
A	L	E	A	I	S	P		
A	T	E	S	T	E	P	S	
W	E	A	S	E	L	O	T	
E	S	T	E	A	L	O		
D	R	E	V	E	S	O	U	P

The OVALTINE'S own 'Puzzle Corner'

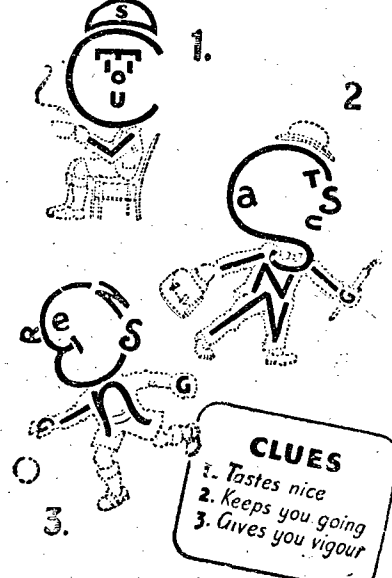
What words do these figures represent?

Each of these intriguing figures is made up of hidden letters to form a word that represents an outstanding virtue of delicious 'Ovaltine'. Study the clues and see if you can find the missing word in each case.

OVALTINE'S are among the brightest and happiest of children. They know that 'Ovaltine' is a delicious, appetizing drink and make it a golden rule to drink this nourishing beverage every day. It is delightful with any meal and is a favourite bedtime drink with thousands of Ovaltine's. It helps to keep them strong and full of energy.

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Turn this upside down to find the correct answers

(1) Delicious (2) Sustaining (3) Energising